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Special issue celebrating the 60th birthday of Gus Lehrer



This issue of the *Journal of Algebra* is dedicated to Professor Gus Lehrer on the occasion of his 60th birthday. A two week conference in honour of Gus' 60th birthday was held at the Australian National University, Canberra from July 2 to July 6, and at the University of Sydney from July 9 to July 13 in 2007. The meeting was attended by over 100 mathematicians from around the world.

Gus Lehrer obtained his PhD with J.A. Green in 1971. Since then, Gus has made major contributions to group theory, representation theory, algebraic geometry and topology. To mention just a few of his achievements, Gus has made important contributions to the following areas:

- the representation theory of finite reductive groups with disconnected centre (partly with Digne and Michel);
- Hecke algebras of induced cuspidal representations of finite reductive groups (with Howlett);
- the action of a reflection group on the cohomology of its hyperplane complement;
- cellular algebras (a concept he invented with Graham);
- the determination of the cohomology of varieties using rational-point counting arguments (partly with Dimca and Kisin);
- the theory of complex reflection groups (partly with Springer).

The papers in this volume give an indication of the depth and diversity of Gus' interests. Roughly half of the papers in this volume are written by the speakers who attended the Lehrer conference, with the other half being contributed by people who would have liked to attend but were unable. We are particularly pleased that eight of Gus' collaborators (Bonnafé, Dimca, Dyer, Lusztig, Shoji, Springer, Nanhua Xi and Zhang) are represented. In addition, to the papers listed in this volume, Changchang

Xi has dedicated his paper “Stable equivalences of adjoint type” [Forum Math. 20 (2008) 81–97] in honour of Lehrer’s 60th birthday.

We would like to thank Professor Michel Broué for the invitation to edit this special volume, the journal staff at Elsevier for their help in producing this issue and, finally, all of the referees for making this volume possible.

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